


Amended Programme Brief

	Programme Brief	Issue No:01
		Date: 09.11.2017
		Revision No.: 01
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PROGRAMME: Overseas Science Education Programme of NSF (OSEP)		
OBJECTIVE		
<p>To provide an international exposure on trends in modern science, technology, research and innovation to Sri Lankan school children, teachers (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; STEM) and University Undergraduates in order to upgrade and improve their knowledge on science, technology and innovation to face the challenges of the modern world by providing financial assistance.</p>		
RATIONALE		
<p>There are 10,162 schools in Sri Lanka (School Census Preliminary Reports 2016, Ministry of Education) and out of that science stream for A/L is conducted in 1016 schools (1AB; 2016 data, Ministry of Education). There is a decreasing trend of selecting science stream for A/L due to various reasons. This showcases the school children are less motivated to select science stream for their tertiary education. As a result, there is an immediate requirement to motivate students and teachers in this regard. It is also felt that we need more scientists to contribute towards the sustainable development of the country.</p> <p>Taking this into consideration, NSF introduces a scheme to provide an overseas exposure on science and technology for school children, teachers, and University Undergraduates. The OSEP will produce more scientists in future.</p> <p>National Science Foundation has already established a School Science Society Programme and University Science Society Programme in order to cater them in improving science popularization, science and technology activities in their schools and Universities in various ways. Traveling an extra mile on this venture, the NSF has developed this programme to empower the Sri Lankan school children, teachers, and University Undergraduates. This will also upgrade and improve their knowledge on modern science, technology and innovation. Thereby it will contribute to the national development by producing innovative and motivated intellectuals from school and University communities.</p>		
PROGRAMME CONCEPT		
<p>The scheme is designed to facilitate and grant assistance to Sri Lankan school children, teachers, and University Undergraduates of science societies registered with NSF to participate in internationally organized competitions (e.g. Intel International Science and Engineering Fair- ISEF, International Olympiad <i>etc.</i>), seminars, conferences and training programmes related to science popularization and science education, and thereby to actively contribute in enhancing the quality of science and technology in Sri Lanka.</p>		
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PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

Categories of candidates and types of programmes

Category	Types of programmes
School Children (Grade 06 upward) from Schools registered with NSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation at Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) • Participation at International Olympiad Competitions • Other Science Competitions overseas • Training programmes on Science Education / Science Popularization overseas • Other overseas activities recognized by NSF
School teachers (STEM) from Schools registered with NSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation at Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) • Participation at International Olympiad Competitions • Training programmes on Science Education / Science Popularization overseas • Seminars / Conferences related to Science Education and Science Popularization overseas • Other international competitions and activities recognized by NSF
Undergraduates from University Science Societies registered with NSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas Science Competitions and Science Fairs • Overseas Seminars / Conferences related to science education and science popularization • Other overseas activities recognized by the NSF
National coordinators / Team leaders (Universities or other organizations) of National and International Competitions related to STEM education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas Science Competitions and Science Fairs • Overseas Seminars / Conferences related to science education and science popularization • Other overseas activities recognized by the NSF

Eligibility criteria

- Applicant must be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Applicants must be from schools (school children: Grade 06 upward; Teachers: STEM teachers) and University Science Societies (undergraduates) registered with the NSF. Applications are eligible only from Science Societies (Schools/Universities) registered more than 3 months prior to the date of application.
- Schools registered with NSF will be funded after an evaluation depending on the availability of funds.
- In case of National coordinators / team leaders maximum of 2 persons per year will be considered

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Directions for applicants

- Application and Guidelines can be downloaded from the NSF website (www.nsf.ac.lk) or by an e-mail upon a request make by the applicant to the Science Popularization Division of NSF (spdnew@nsf.ac.lk).
- Duly completed applications should be sent to “Director General, National Science Foundation, 47/5, Maitland Place, Colombo 07” through Ministry of Education (Zonal Education Director of the area) excluding undergraduates. Undergraduates should send their applications through the Senior Treasurer of the relevant University Science Society and the Dean of the Faculty. National coordinators and team leaders should send their applications through their relevant institute which organizes the competition. Following documents should be attached to the application.
 - Request letter for funding from the Principal and the National Coordinator (school children) or Senior Treasurer through Dean (undergraduates).
 - Copy of the Invitation Letter from the International Organizer.
 - Three quotations for airfare (shortest route, economy class, return air ticket-from any agent registered with the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka).
 - Evidence of registration (e.g. pre-invoice/any supportive evidence for registration)
 - Three quotations for accommodation (if not provided by the organizers; only for school children and undergraduates).
 - Account details (for School Children – Name of the Bank, Branch and front page of the passbook of the School Development Society forwarded through the Principal; for Teachers and Undergraduates – Name of the Bank, Branch, front page of the passbook and a copy of the NIC).
- Applications should be submitted at least 2 months prior to commencement of the programme.
- If it is a group, each member should submit separate application.

TARGET GROUPS/ BENEFISHERIES

School children, teachers of the schools and Undergraduates

OUTCOME

Empowered and motivated school children, teachers and University Undergraduates on science and technology to contribute towards sustainable development of the country.

REMARKS

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Conditions

- Decision of the Board of Management will be the final.
- Funds will be provided based on the availability of funds at NSF.
- Maximum funds provided per applicant will be Rs.200, 000/- .
- One person can obtain only one grant per year.
- Initially 90% of the approved funds will be provided. The remaining 10% will be provided only after submitting the following documents to NSF.
 - e-ticket
 - Invoice of the air ticket
 - Original Boarding Passes of all flights
 - Brief report on the outcome of the event (format is attached)
 - Receipt of the registration fee payment
 - Receipt of the payment for accommodation
- After a grant is awarded it is non-transferable and non-deferrable.
- Any form of canvassing is regarded as a disqualification.
- If any applicant is found to be funded by another organization, funding for such applicants will be with-hold and if they are provided funds already then they will be requested to refund the full amount provided by NSF or if failed to do so they will be blacklisted and will not be considered for any funding in future.
- Funds will be released to the account of School Development Society in case of school children and the Principal is responsible for providing NSF funds to the respective student(s).
- The funds will be transferred to individual accounts in case of teachers and undergraduates. They are responsible for the total expenditure of the Grant.
- If NSF finds any form of misappropriation of funds provided by NSF, then legal action will be taken against them.

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